

# nexus

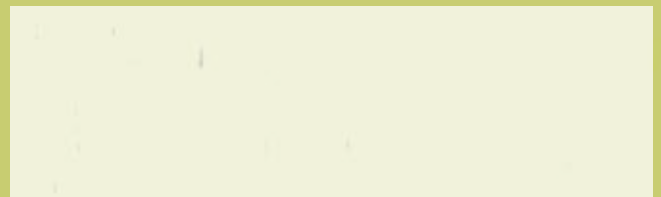
The University of Toronto Faculty of Law Alumni Magazine  
Spring/Summer 2010



## Open Access

The rich have money. The poor have legal aid.  
Everyone else has an access-to-justice problem.  
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**Editor in Chief**

Kate Hilton, JD 1999

**Executive Editor**

Lucianna Ciccocioppo

**Art Director**

Levi Nicholson

**Copy Editor**

Dylan Reid

**Advertising & Production Assistant**

Susan Hooper

T/ 416.978.1355

F/ 416.978.7899

alumni.law@utoronto.ca

**Editorial Office**

T/ 416-946-0334

F/ 416-978-7899

nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca

**Letters to the Editor**

F/ 416-978-7899

nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca

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*Nexus* magazine, Faculty of Law, 84 Queen's Park, 112-C Toronto, ON M5S 2C5.

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## New season, new stories, new *Nexus*

Spring is here, the Flavelle gardens are blooming and another academic year is over. In the spirit of spring renewal, *Nexus* has undergone a makeover, and we hope you like the changes as much as we do. The new *Nexus* is outward-looking, featuring stories about trends in the legal profession and profiling alumni, faculty and students who are at the cutting edge of legal practice and policy.

A great law school like ours should have a public mission, and our scholarship should have an impact on public policy beyond our walls. This is why I am particularly excited about the access-to-justice initiative ("Open access" p. 15), which brings together faculty, students and members of the profession—many of them alumni—to tackle one of the most pressing problems facing the justice system. Led by Michael Trebilcock, the project is looking at ways to make civil litigation more affordable for those who don't qualify for legal aid and can't afford to pay a lawyer—in other words, the vast majority of Canadians.

This issue also features an excerpt from a terrific event held at the law school in March ("A local meeting of global minds" p.7). Sponsored by the Catalyst Capital Group, the Symposium on Restructuring and Insolvency featured world-renowned economist Ed Altman with a panel of other experts who offered views on the health of the global financial system. The day also included a closed-door seminar for judges with Altman, Professor Tony Duggan and alumnus Jim Farley, LLB 1966. The event was another great example of ways in which our law school can serve as a valuable educational resource to the broader community.

We are always looking for story ideas, so don't hesitate to send your thoughts to our editor, Lucianna Ciccocioppo at [nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca](mailto:nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca). And have a wonderful summer!

Mayo Moran

“The first thing our students learn is that they have to turn thousands of people away. And it is thousands a year.”

**Judith McCormack**  
Executive Director, Downtown Legal Services

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LLB 1968, in "Canada's Mr. Showbiz"

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### Randi Chapnik Myers

**Hometown:** Toronto

**Real-life hero:** I don't believe in heroes, just in humans trying their best.

**Talent I'd most like to have:** To spin out one novel after another.

**Why I write for a living:** Because words thrill me.

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Randi Chapnik Myers, mom to three kids, left her law career when she enrolled in a memoir class at Harvard University. That led to a life as a freelance writer/editor for various publications, such as *Today's Parent*, *The Globe and Mail*, *MoneySense* and *More Magazine*. In her spare time, she teaches women how to write their motherhood stories ([www.thememoirproject.com](http://www.thememoirproject.com)) and blogged last season about life as a hockey mom (<http://blogs.todayparent.com/category/hockeymom>). She wrote "A Class Act" for *Nexus* on page 11.



### Douglas Sanderson

**Hometown:** Lahr, Germany. My Dad was in the Air Force, and we moved every four years after that.

**Real life hero:** Harold Adams Innis—soldier, scholar, public intellectual.

**Why I do this for a living:** It's the best life imaginable! Teaching, writing, professing, this job's got it all ... and allows me to wear a brown corduroy suit whenever I want.

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The opinion piece on page 28 was written by Douglas Sanderson, JD 2003, an assistant professor at the Faculty of Law. A member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, he's heading several projects, including the development of an Indigenous Commercial Code, a Court of Arbitration for Indigenous Nations in Ontario, and a U of T executive education program for Aboriginal leaders in conjunction with the School for Public Policy and the National Centre for First Nations Governance.



### Jeffery Kirk

**Hometown:** Whitby

**Rather be in:** New Zealand

**Talent I'd most like to have:** To captain a cruise ship.

**Why I photograph for a living:** Every shoot brings something new and different.

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Jeffery Kirk's love of photography evolved during high school. He made his first dark room in his parents' basement and seeing that image appear in the developer had him hooked. He's a graduate of Sheridan College, and began his career assisting other photographers, fine-tuning his craft before venturing out on his own. He lives in Toronto with his wife and two-year-old son, Liam. He photographed our Toronto-based alumni in the entertainment feature on page 21.

# A local meeting of global minds

A public lecture and panel on the 2008 global credit meltdown drew the world's leading players in insolvency and restructuring to discuss what happened—and what's happening next. *Photography by Diana Balogh-Tyszko*

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More than 220 guests packed Bennett Lecture Hall and an over-flow room on March 3, 2010, to hear Prof. Edward Altman, NYU Stern School of Business, give a talk on the global credit meltdown of 2008, its implications in 2009 and the outlook for 2010. ¶ The public lecture and panel discussion were organized by Prof. Tony Duggan, Hon. Frank Iacobucci Chair in Capital Markets Regulation at the Faculty of Law, and the Hon. James Farley, LLB 1966, senior counsel at McCarthy Tétrault. The event was made possible with the generous support of private equity firm Catalyst Capital Group Inc., founded by alumnus Newton Glassman, LLB 1988. ¶ Altman has an international reputation as an expert on corporate bankruptcy, high-yield bonds, distressed debt and credit risk analysis. His forecasts are based on five different methodologies, including mortality rates, recession scenario-based methods and market-based models. ¶ His talk garnered national media attention, including interviews with BNN, the *Globe and Mail* and the *National Post*. ¶ Here is an excerpt from Altman's engaging and thought-provoking talk:

“My wife and I have a little tradition of opening up a bottle of fine red wine every time there’s a big bankruptcy. And if there are two or three big ones in a row, we move to the fine champagne. In 2001 and 2002 we were drunk all the time. And then the Altman family went into a liquidity crisis.”

One model, which is something you’ve all learned in your basic Economics 101 class, is that the relationship between the real economy and the credit markets is extremely important. Now many people believe that the real economy drives performance of companies and credit markets within those economies. And yet I would argue that in many cases, in particular the last three recessions in the United States, the credit market was the driving force for the eventual recession that took place.

In every recession the default rate tends to peak pretty much close to the end of the recession or soon thereafter. Sometimes the recession actually is preceded by as much as two to three years of an increase in the default rate among companies. This is very surprising to many people, particularly the macroeconomists who think it’s the other way around, that the real economy drives default rates. I believe there is some credibility to that argument, but there’s also one that says that credit markets drive real economy situations, which I think has happened in our most recent past in several instances...

We have a system called credit ratings: Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s and Fitch, incidentally tremendous culprits in the meltdown. But I do believe that the rating agencies do wonderful work, particularly on the initial rating of plain vanilla bonds and loans. And when they ascribe a rating, it is a very good indicator of the default likelihood of the issues of the companies that they are analyzing.

They do a very poor job in the re-rating or what’s called the “migration of ratings” over time. They are slow; they often move but not enough, and as a result, most models including models that I’ve built and others like me are still around.

One model, the “Z-score model,” created a long time ago, is still around and used. And the reason why it’s still around is that it gives very timely early warnings that rating agencies are simply not prepared to do. We can be wrong, and we can be volatile, but we’re going to be right more than wrong—and earlier.

These ratings can be used as the initial indicator of potential defaults of companies. For example, a single B-rated security—the average and most common junk bond—has an average default rate of 30 per cent within five years. And if the baby B lasts for one year, just like the human being for one year, the contingent probability of default in years two, three, four and five changes. So survival impacts mortality, just like with people. So that is another model that we look at to forecast what we think will happen in the next 12-18 months.

The third model is market-based models. What is the market telling us about expected default rates going forward? Incidentally, the market at the beginning of 2000—when the spread was more than

2,000—implied a default rate of more than 20 per cent in the high-yield bond market. It turned out to be 10.7 per cent, much lower than the market expected. So the market is not always right. Right now the market seems to say it’s going to be an average default rate going forward.

But you’ll observe that the credit to false-lock price as well as the yield spread on Greece today is sky high because they’re expecting potentially a default—maybe not next week, but certainly in the next year or two. And unfortunately it has spread to other countries in Europe including the UK today. So we are not in an average situation in the credit markets.

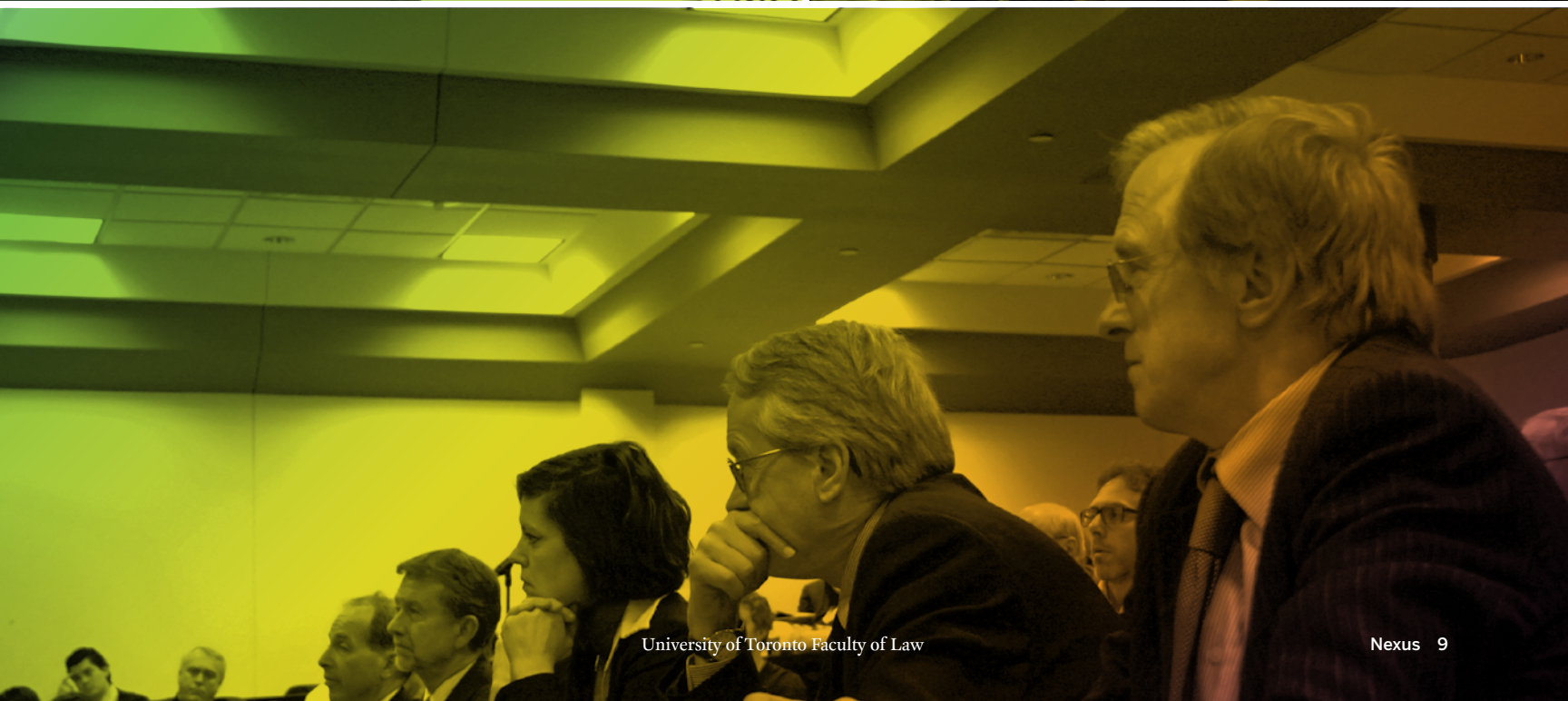
... Now let’s talk about the biggest risk in the default market and that’s default risk. The market that I’ve studied very carefully since 1982 is what we call the high-yield bond market or the non-investment grade bond market—which incidentally, in terms of number of issuers, is larger than the investment grade market. And apparently it’s much more dynamic than investment grade, and has incredible volatility in the last two years. The average return on investments and junk bonds lost about 27 per cent in 2008 and made about 55 per cent in 2009 with that amazing recovery. So it’s been very volatile—but so has the stock market and so have most markets.

The correlation between price movement in the equity market and the high-yield bond market and the distressed market was more than 0.8. A 0.8 correlation coefficient is huge. All markets seem to move together lately. This is an example of systemic risk, when markets move together even if the companies that you invest in have very little, if anything, to do with each other. That’s what systemic risk is all about, and we’ve observed it, and we’re not through with it, at least not yet. You notice that this market has grown to about \$1.1 trillion as of today.

And one measure of the risk in that market is something called the “default rate.” Default rates have been high before and they’ll be high again. Five times in the last 40 years we’ve had default rates of 10 per cent or more. That’s about two standard deviations above the mean and very high. We’ve even had that for two years in a row: in 1991 and again in 2001-2002. Last year, it was 10.7 per cent. So some years, we get very high default rates. In 2001 and 2002 default rates were 9.8 per cent and 12.8 per cent. Boy, they were fantastic years. I have to tell you I love defaults. I love bankruptcies. As an empirical researcher, we need data points. We need observations. And the United States is just the most fertile ground for that sort of thing.

My wife and I have a little tradition of opening up a bottle of fine red wine every time there’s a big bankruptcy. And if there are two





# Global Credit Meltdown

Public Lecture and Panel Discussion

## Organizers

Prof. Tony Duggan, *Faculty of Law*

Hon. James Farley, LLB 1966, *McCarthy Tétrault*

## Guest Speaker

Prof. Edward Altman, *NYU Stern School of Business*

## Panelists

Judge James Peck, *US Bankruptcy Court*

Mahesh Uttamchandani, *World Bank*

Ken Coleman, *Allen and Overy, NYC*

Dan Dowdall, *Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP, Toronto*

## Panel Chair

Hon. James Farley, *McCarthy Tétrault*

## Sponsor

Catalyst Capital Group Inc.

**“Who would have guessed a decade ago that derivatives would have been so instrumental in a meltdown of our markets, together with a credit crunch leading to major insolvency concerns? Excuse me, but weren’t derivatives supposed to be stabilizing influences in our economy? And derivatives of course weren’t heard about two decades ago. Everything is changing. It’s in flux.”**

—Hon. James Farley, LLB 1966  
*McCarthy Tétrault*

**“I think it is normal for individuals to be more driven by psychology than economics and that we are in a psychological period of unrest. I make no predictions as a result, but what I can say is that based upon my recent experiences in the United States bankruptcy system, I’m highly confident that our system is capable of addressing most of the risks that we are likely to see that result in default.”**

—Judge Jim Peck  
*Bankruptcy Court Southern District of New York*



or three big ones in a row, we move to the fine champagne. In 2001 and 2002 we were drunk all the time. And then the Altman family went into a liquidity crisis, as the default rate dropped and dropped. In 2007, it was a half of one per cent. That’s when the yield spread was 260 and the default rate was miniscule and yet the risk looked so high. Something was wrong.

And of course we observed in 2008 a 4.6 per cent default rate and then in 2009 10.7 per cent. Now you would say: “10.7%? Wow, that is a high year!” And yet it was the best year ever to invest in junk bonds.

Why? Because the market expected much higher. So expectations influence spreads which influence rates of return versus the reality of that year. The question then is: Is today’s spread of 535 indicative of what we can expect for the next 12-18 months? The key variable, in my opinion, that is going to help us determine what we can expect is the real economy, particularly in the United States. ⚡



**Web Extra:** Watch Prof. Altman’s full lecture and the panel discussion online: [www.law.utoronto.ca/conferences/credit.html](http://www.law.utoronto.ca/conferences/credit.html)

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# A class act

Headline-grabbing class-action lawsuits are keeping Faculty of Law alumni busy across Canada. *Nexus* takes a look at this growing, complex area of specialization, where the payoff for firms can be big—or a big bust.

By Randi Chapnik Myers  
Photography by Colleen Heslin and Keri Knapp



Ward Branch, LLB 1991:  
“No one reports on the losses or  
the cases where the lawyer  
breaks even.”

Just mention the phrase “class action,” and people start thinking big. Big case, big fight, big bucks.

And it’s no wonder. Just like in the US, Canadian class-action drama is unfolding fast. From the SARS crisis, to anti-smoking laws, to climate change, just about any issue affecting a group of people can become the subject of a class action and make its mark not just on our laws but also on our social and economic life. But to kick-start a case this complex and costly, the first stop is a lawyer who is ready, willing and able to take it on.

Top class-action lawyers—many of them Faculty of Law alumni—are busier than ever bringing and defending cutting edge cases on behalf of their fellow Canadians. They report that practicing in this evolving field of law is exciting and challenging at the same time.

“Because class actions involve enormous sums of money, and

since governments passed the legislation that allowed the lawsuits in the first place,” says Ward Branch, LLB 1991, co-founder of Branch MacMaster LLP in Vancouver and author of the textbook *Class Actions in Canada*.

They did so to achieve two important societal goals: to extend access to justice to those who otherwise could not afford to bring an individual case, and to keep big business in line. “Now that companies know that class-action lawyers are out hunting for them, the hope is that they are more likely to treat people fairly,” Sossin says.

Take, for example, the many cases going after utility companies charging interest on late payments. People are charged about five dollars on their bill, a penalty calculated on an exorbitant annual rate that violates legal standards. But who would sue for a measly five bucks or less? A class-action lawyer, that’s who.

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Take, for example, the many cases going after **utility** companies charging interest on late payments. People are charged about five dollars on their bill, a **penalty** calculated on an exorbitant annual rate that violates legal standards. But who would **sue** for a measly five bucks or less? A class-action lawyer, that’s who.

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engage such important policy and social issues, the area is affecting more lawyers’ lives,” says Prof. Lorne Sossin, who taught first-year students about class actions as part of the legal process, professionalism and ethics course at the University of Toronto.

“We’re seeing the first generation of lawyers in Ontario with class actions in the legal system. So it’s still early days here,” he says. But already, you can tell the story of Canada in the last 15 years through class-action cases: hepatitis C, tainted blood, mad cow disease, Walkerton, institutional sexual abuse and the list goes on. “You would be hard-pressed to find a significant event that captivates Canadian life that doesn’t have a class action attached,” Sossin says.

While Canada’s first major class action—Quebec’s asbestos case—was brought back in the ’70s, Ontario legislation allowing class actions only arrived in 1993. Today, all provinces except PEI are on board, which means more cases in more jurisdictions.

“The most popular defendant is the government, which is ironic,

“The lawyer aggregates the five-dollar claims of everyone affected then uses a single plaintiff to bring a case for tens of millions of dollars on behalf of a very large group,” Sossin says.

The plaintiff class gets paid from the proceeds of a win. And so does the lawyer, who works strictly on a contingency fee basis. While in a typical civil case a client pays a lawyer to take a dispute to court, a class-action lawyer funds the litigation, then takes a share of the proceeds only in the case of a win or settlement.

Contingency fee payment poses an ethical dilemma because it can hold out a financial carrot to plaintiff lawyers, thus encouraging them to pick fights. As a result, Sossin says they can end up trolling for clients because if they can find a lucrative one, they stand to profit handsomely. “If you’re getting a percentage of the proceeds, you can put in two weeks of work and potentially get a thousand times the payout you would if you were paid by the hour,” he says.

Class-action lawyers tend to get a bad rap, operating as they do



Keeper of the caseload: Linda Rothstein, LLB 1980, restricts the firm's class action cases to 20 per cent of the practice at Paliare Roland Rosenberg and Rothstein.

in the shadow of litigators such as Tony Merchant, the Jaguar-driving former politician who was accused of capitalizing on the tragic residential schools scandal. His letters to former students promised they had “nothing to lose” by joining the suit that could land them up to \$150,000 in compensation for being victims of sexual assault.

With such headline-grabbing stories front and centre, it's easy to forget that to initiate a claim, the lawyer has to dig into the firm coffers and work for free, Branch says. “The public perception is misleading since only the big wins make it into the papers. No one reports on the losses or the cases where the lawyer breaks even,” he says.

There are also checks against financial abuse built right into the system. Class-action legislation requires that a Canadian court not only decide whether a case is properly brought at the outset of a claim, but that it also approves the lawyer's fee at its end. That fee is generally between 10 and 35 per cent of the award, Branch says.

It's generally a lot lower than in the US, he points out. “Canadian courts are more conservative about lawyer's fees. We are not paid so excessively that we are motivated to bring silly cases in the hopes of a windfall.”

Too much focus on what a lawyer gets out of a case can detract from the bigger issue: what society gets out of it, says Linda Rothstein, LLB 1980, managing partner at the litigation boutique firm Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP in Toronto. Without the power of a class behind a claim—whether it's individuals harmed by unsafe products, or victims of unfair consumer practices or other abuses—important cases could never be litigated, she says. “On an individual

basis, they would have faced enormous legal hurdles and been bogged down in court forever.”

Not many firms can afford to take on class-action risk. As a result, there is a small, specialized plaintiff bar. “Approximately 90 per cent of class-actions are brought by 10 firms across Canada because it's such a complex field. It's not something you can just dabble in,” says Branch, who has been retained in more than 90 class actions in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia.

He's busy because Branch MacMaster is one of few Canadian firms to practice on both sides of class-action claims. With 15 cases active at any one time, the firm recently wrapped up acting for the plaintiff class in the Maple Leaf Foods contamination case (it settled for \$27 million), and is vigorously defending the province of Alberta against a class asserting its constitutional right to nursing-home care.

At Ogilvy Renault LLP in Toronto, Steve Tenai, LLB 1990, and Jeremy Devereux, LLB 1992, devote much of their time to class action work, defence only. “That's what happens when most of your clients are corporations and the directors and advisers who work for them,” Tenai says.

The challenges that make class-action cases difficult—they are complex, time-consuming, multi-jurisdictional—are also what make them interesting, Tenai says. “You are exposed to some cutting-edge theories of liability, working with lawyers who really know their stuff.”

“It's still a relatively new area but it's caught on,” Devereux says. He predicts that along with the rise in cases across the country, the number that will battle it out at trial is bound to increase.

Ironically, more cases make it harder for people in different jurisdictions to have their day in court. “Managing cross-country cases is hard because now firms in different provinces can file a claim in the same case, and in class actions, you really only need one lawyer in charge, and one plaintiff standing in the shoes of all the rest,” Branch says.

To help solve “inter-jurisdictional catfights,” which cause delay and create public confusion, he was appointed to the Canadian Bar Association’s new National Class Actions Task Force, which was recently struck to address the problem of overlapping claims in various provinces.

Judges should also consider ways to improve the public’s ability to collect on settlements, Branch says. Although the lawyer must issue a notice inviting members of the public affected by the case to come forward and claim their share, in his experience, only two to 40 per

It also has to be about lawyers taking on cases that are in the public interest—even if they are not the most profitable, she says.

As part of her research, she asked Canadian class-action law firms what types of cases they pursue. The results, representing the work of approximately 77 class-action lawyers working in 13 firms, show that as of the end of 2008, the majority of claims were defective drug and medical devices, followed by Competition Act claims, product liability and securities. At the bottom end were employment actions.

To maximize access to justice, she suggests the courts grant higher fees to lawyers in cases involving novel causes or having social significance.

Despite its growing pains, or perhaps because of them, the booming class-action field has U of T law students talking. “The ability of these cases to transform policy plus the ethical issues they bring to

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“The cases are so large, you get to **chase down** every legal avenue. And the **class-action** tool gets layered over all of the big political and social issues. In any one day, I find myself working on the Charter, **securities** law, products liability, pensions and melting sperm banks. Not too many lawyers get to do that.”

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cent of people do. That’s because in many class-action cases, there is no database listing who was harmed.

“In the Maple Leaf Foods case, for instance, you don’t know who ate the product. So all you can do is use broad-based media advertising—if you were affected, call this number— and hope the claim comes to their attention,” he says.

Also, there is no one tracking how many people get paid out, says Jasminka Kalajdzic, LLB 1995, LLM 2009, an assistant professor at the University of Windsor’s Faculty of Law. Her master’s thesis, now being converted into a book, questions whether class actions go far enough in increasing access to justice.

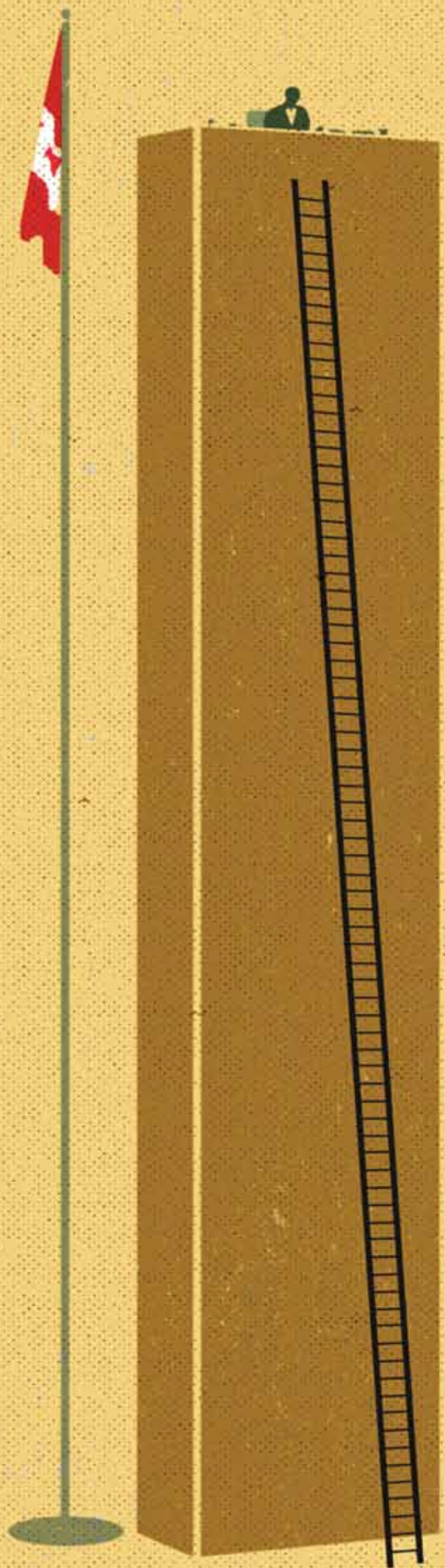
“The concept of access to justice should not be limited to giving someone a day in court. It has to be about knowing how many people are actually being compensated in the end, and ensuring class members have an opportunity to participate in the settlement process,” Kalajdzic says.

the table make for some very vibrant class discussions,” Sossin says.

As for the lawyers who are helping to write Canada’s history, they are busy managing their class-action caseloads. At Paliare Roland, Rothstein spends hundreds of hours deciding which cases to take on. “Plaintiff firms typically turn down at least 10 cases for every one accepted,” she says. To keep the caseload from getting overwhelming, she sticks to the firm’s commitment to restrict class actions to 20 per cent of the practice.

On a day-to-day basis, she says working on cases with such high stakes and a real chance to make a systemic impact is hugely rewarding.

Branch agrees. “I love being a specialist in this area because the cases are so large, you get to chase down every legal avenue. And the class-action tool gets layered over all of the big political and social issues. In any one day, I find myself working on the Charter, securities law, products liability, pensions and melting sperm banks. Not too many lawyers get to do that.” ↩



# Open Access\$\$

The rich have money. The poor have legal aid. Everyone else has an access-to-justice problem. The Faculty of Law is about to change that.

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo Illustration by Dan Page

“With cutbacks in health care, or lack of investment in **mental health** support services, the courts have become collecting nets for **people** who have essentially been abandoned or ill-used by other social **policy decisions.**”

Inside the Fasken Martineau Building, a brown brick walk-up housing the Faculty of Law’s Downtown Legal Services clinic, bright yellow walls and lots of natural light greet clients who qualify for free legal assistance. It’s a deceptively cheery look for a centre dealing with life situations—criminal, tenant, family, refugee or academic issues—that are decidedly bleak.

In the hub of phone banks and computer screens, first-year law students are the frontline response team for calls from low-income residents of Toronto. These 90-minute shifts can be tough—on everyone. “We get people calling in who are in tears. They can barely get through the issue talking to you,” says Will Morrison, an upper year student volunteer. “Sometimes people slam the phone on you.”

That’s what can happen when students pull up their wikis and proceed through a list of questions to help determine if callers qualify for legal aid. And the answer is, many do not.

“It’s a challenging experience for both us and our students,” says Judith McCormack, executive director of DLS. “The first thing our students learn is that they have to turn thousands of people away—and it is thousands—because the demand is so high and one clinic can only do so much.”

They are not turned away cold. Binder after binder in the DLS hub holds crucial referral guidance for free hotline advice or community services, and even names of private lawyers, many of whom provide free initial consultations.

“It’s a really uncomfortable situation,” says Morrison, “and I guess I’ve become used to it, which is troubling in its own way. I’ve seen the incredible diversity of people’s experiences with the legal system, and the frustrating lack of ability we have to help.”

Heidi Mottahedin knows that frustration. The mediator had one too many clients balk at her when she had to refer them to a lawyer for legal representation. She launched justicenet.ca in 2009, a non-profit online referral service for “low-bono” legal assistance, where lawyers charge clients according to their ability to pay and the number of dependents.

The service now has more than 80 lawyers signed up. And Steve Bellissimo, JD 1975, is one of them. The civil litigator slashes his rates by up to 50 per cent, to \$250 per hour, to help low-income clients “pursue their claims with some financial stability, without substantial financial risk.”

It may be low-bono, but it’s still beyond the reach of the majority.





of Ontarians seeking redress for a variety of legal issues. This, however, is the reality show that is the access-to-justice crisis for those stuck in society's lower and middle strata—too rich to qualify for Legal Aid, not quite rich enough to afford legal representation.

“When you get right down to it, there are really no meaningful services available for a lot of these people,” says McCormack. “Referrals don't go very far.”

We have a problem, thought Prof. Michael Trebilcock after completing his *Report of the Legal Aid Review* in 2008 for Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney-General.

The report highlighted several key findings, supported by empirical data collected from 1996-2006: the pool of people Legal Aid is able to serve is shrinking, given its restrictive financial eligibility requirements, and government support for the system is declining in real dollar terms (down almost 10 per cent in the same period). For Trebilcock, the data also illuminated a political economy argument that could no longer be ignored.

“The middle class simply isn't invested in Legal Aid the way they are in other politicized issues, such as health care and education.” As a result, it was going to be difficult to get the electorate to support any argument for increased funding for Legal Aid, since the system is effectively closed to the average Canadian.

At the law school, the gap in legal services for the middle class is increasingly apparent. “We constantly get people coming to our library, asking our librarians for help with a case and with legal research,” says Prof. Mayo Moran, SJD 1999, dean of the Faculty of Law. “And as dean, I get many phone calls and emails from people who are desperate for help.”

It was no surprise then when Trebilcock approached her about the growing access-to-justice issue. What was novel, however, was the tactical approach he proposed: engaging the middle class. The idea got the faculty talking.

“I've been involved in access-to-justice issues in one form or another at different points in my career for years, and to me, this was one of the best strategic ideas that I had heard,” says McCormack. “Essentially we need a whole segment of society to get on board, and get willing politicians to start putting this in its proper perspective.”

Where and how to begin was another issue, says Moran. “Everyone

knows there's a problem but figuring out what we do to respond to it is not easy. And the sense that ‘We've seen this movie before’ is frustrating for people.”

The “sequel” is now in production.

The dean made the issue a research and public interest priority for the Faculty of Law. Working and advisory groups were pulled together to map out a multi-pronged initiative to address the growing problem of low and middle-income access to the civil legal justice system in Ontario.

The first phase is an upper-year research seminar, which earlier this year brought together a talented and motivated group of law students and faculty to study best practices from around the world, including adjudicative alternatives.

Next, focus groups are in the works with senior members of the bar, bench and the academy in high-needs areas such as family, employment, consumer and debtor/creditor law to elicit and refine ideas for new and, more importantly, practical solutions. These will be laid out in a policy paper.

And to cap it off, an international conference at the Faculty of Law—and subsequent book publication of essays with a leading academic publisher—is confirmed for February 2011 with Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin as the keynote speaker.

It's an ambitious initiative with a specific objective: to impact public policy, improve access for those sandwiched in between income-level extremes, and foster a trickle-down effect to galvanize support for Legal Aid, helping those who need it most.

The hope, says Moran, is also to produce an innovative delivery model at the Faculty of Law addressing—and filling in—the gaps in the system, where law students, faculty supervisors and volunteers from the legal profession can be involved in a pilot project. “We have a rich source of support for this initiative here, and it will be exciting to see it unfold. One possibility is a clinical type model to give people some assistance, more than just providing information, but something less than going to court. That's what most people need—something in the middle.”

What we need is a 21st century justice system, says Justice Stephen Goudge, LLB 1968, one that addresses the growing number of self-represented litigants he increasingly sees in his Ontario Court of Appeal. Minus the lawyer, many judges and adjudicators



# Canadians are proud of a system where **every citizen** is equal before the law. But in reality, says Prof. Michael Trebilcock, “that promise is something of a **chimera.**”

are seeing the raw stories of frustration and inaccessibility up close. Goudge was one of more than 30 leading individuals and organizations in the access-to-justice field from across Canada who provided feedback on the law school initiative.

“I think changes need to start everywhere,” he says. “There are a variety of challenges, everything from self-representation to the cost of legal services, to the rules provided by the court system, to the way judges approach cases, to the way lawyers interact with each other and with courts. There is virtually no dimension of the justice system that can’t be approached from that perspective.”

The ideas are many and examples from around the world are varied, everything from legal expense insurance in Germany, citizen advice bureaus for all income levels in the UK, unbundled services in the US and all kinds of self-help centres, websites and hotlines set up across Canada. What’s clear is there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution in a justice system that’s set up to argue black and white, with very little room for grey.

“You don’t want to focus solely on providing people with legal services once they’re in the system. You also need to come up with measures and reforms that are going to prevent them from entering the system in the first place,” says Nikki Gershain, LLB 2000, national director of Pro Bono Students Canada. “You’ll never successfully reform the system unless you do both.”

Simplification is one of the loudest arguments, one that Prof. Lorne Sossin strongly believes in. He was the principal researcher and a co-author of the recently released *Report of the Ontario Civil Legal*

*Needs Project*, which found that the complexity of the justice system, among other things, was a significant barrier to access to justice.

“We know that simplifying the process isn’t that hard if the system is structured with the needs of people representing themselves in mind,” says Sossin. “I’ve been a part of administrative justice for more than a decade and have seen tribunals, boards and agencies committed to accessible justice come up with effective and creative mechanisms for people to access adjudication. If the will is there, courts could do more of this as well.”

A good place to look to is the human rights tribunal, says Katherine Laird, LLB 1977, executive director of the Ontario Human Rights Legal Support Centre, where about 120 people per day call looking for a legal remedy. “Our centre can’t provide representation to everyone who contacts us. We give priority to those individuals who would have the greatest difficulty in self-representing on a human rights claim,” says Laird. “We triage requests and unbundle the legal services. We try to determine who can do what part of the process by themselves and who can do no part of the process by themselves.”

But this is not the whole answer, she says, because all the self-help, public legal education materials and accessible forms cannot replace representation for most cases at the hearing stage that involve any degree of complexity. That’s what lawyers are for.

McCormack agrees. With nine years of adjudication experience at the Ontario Labour Board, she knows first-hand the “enormous disadvantages” self-represented litigants face. An increasing population, fluctuating economic times, and a growing realization that



the pursuit of rights is possible mean more and more people are trying to seek legal help.

“You also have a situation where changes in social policies have increased the need for social assistance,” adds McCormack. “And with cutbacks in health care, or lack of investment in mental health support services, the courts have become collecting nets for people who have essentially been abandoned or ill-used by other social policy decisions.”

We need to attack the economic root causes of the justice gap, says Lenny Abramowicz, executive director of the Association of Community Legal Clinics, who had plenty to say on the issue at a public discussion at the Faculty of Law last winter.

“We lawyers have priced ourselves out of the market. It’s a bit like the Toronto Maple Leafs. When someone asks why the Leafs charge \$500 for a ticket, the answer is: because they can. And because there are enough people who are willing to pay that.”

He’d like to see changes led by the profession, and points out a new Law Society of Manitoba program that will provide top-up funding to middle-income clients who can’t afford a lawyer. And if changes don’t occur, says Abramowicz, then perhaps it’s time to break up the “monopoly.” That’s why he’s interested to see the impact of services provided by licensed paralegals, once prosecuted by but now regulated by the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Recent shifts in legal education also suggest there is reason for optimism. Unlike his student days in the late 1980s, Sossin says access to justice is now fodder for discussion at law schools right across the country, thus creating a system of new recruits who are entering practice already attuned to accessibility concerns, given their experiences with Pro Bono Students Canada, clinic work or other programs. And that’s a good thing, says Laird. “Law students have an important voice on this issue because they really have their eye on how they are going to enter the profession.”

This is true for Will Morrison, who begins his third year in September. His time at DLS has given him a whole new meaning to access to justice. “It’s made it real, more than anything. It’s certainly given a sharp edge to it.”

Canadians are proud of a system where every citizen is equal before the law but in reality, says Trebilcock, “that promise is something of a chimera.” Many believe change is possible, but what is necessary, says

## Access to justice for low and middle-income Canadians

### Working group

Prof. Michael Trebilcock

Prof. Lorne Sossin

Judith McCormack, executive director, Downtown Legal Services

Nikki Gersh bain, LLB 2000, executive director, Pro Bono Students Canada

### Advisory group

Prof. Sujit Choudhry, LLB 1996

Prof. Brenda Cossman, LLB 1986

Prof. Tony Duggan

Prof. Mayo Moran, SJD 1999

Prof. Carol Rogerson, LLB 1982

Prof. Albert Yoon

Chantal Morton, executive director, Centre for the Legal Profession

### Focus group leaders

Larry Bannack, LLB 1975, Koskie Minsky LLP—Employment Law

Gordon Baird, LLB 1989, McCarthy Tétrault LLP—Debtor/Consumer Law

Phil Epstein, LLB 1968, Epstein Cole LLP—Family Law

Goudge, “is a shared commitment to change, and I think that’s probably wanting on all sides.” By bringing all of the players together to focus on practical solutions, the U of T initiative is “a huge step in the right direction.”

Ultimately, governments and the people who elect them need to be convinced the justice gap affects everyone. “As we become a city and province of an increasingly higher newcomer population, social inclusion will affect the quality of life for all of us,” says Laird. “If you have significant segments of the population that feel that the legal system is not really there for them, that is going to play out in other ways in our communities.” ↩



# THE DECADE DOZEN

IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF THESE ALUMNI ...



...YOU SOON WILL.

*Nexus* is looking for 12 alumni who are poised to make an impact this decade either inside or outside traditional law practice.

And we're asking our readers to tell us who they are.

With your help, we think it will make for a fabulous read.

Send in your suggestions to [nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca](mailto:nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca), and in 100 words or less, tell us why we should keep an eye on your nominated alumnus.

**Deadline is July 5, 2010.**

We'll tell you who the Decade Dozen are in the Fall/Winter issue, coming out in November 2010.

# That's entertainment!

A look at four alumni whose work behind the scenes produces the movies, television shows and web hits that make us laugh, cry and think.

*Nexus* features Maple Pictures' Laurie May, distributor of Oscar hits *Precious* and *The Hurt Locker*, David Fortier, of Temple Street Productions and *Being Erica* fame, Jonathan Anshell, from CBS Corp. and Canada's granddaddy of talent and culture, Michael Levine.



Michael Levine  
LLB 1968

## Canada's 'Mr. Showbiz'

By Tracey Halford Gregoris  
Photography by Jeffery Kirk



Michael Levine, LLB 1968, partner at Goodmans LLP in Toronto, says he's grateful he "had the good fortune of being in on the ground floor" in the Canadian entertainment and media industry. While show business is as ancient as the Greeks, the building of a significant Canadian content scene is but half a century young.

An active role in Canadian content's nascence and nurturing has given Levine a unique perspective on these exciting and frequently frustrating times.

"I am an export nationalist," says Levine, a lawyer-agent often caught up battling the Canadian way of self-deprecation. Levine refers to *The Terry Fox Story* which won six Genies in 1984. Despite his best efforts, Levine could not convince the CBC to produce the biopic.

"We sold it to HBO in New York, and then we were able to sell it to CTV after we had an American commitment."

Times are different now as a Levine-driven project, the CBC's *The Republic of Doyle*, has been renewed for a second season and already has international sales. The show, centred on a father-and-son private investigator team, is unashamedly Canadian and is shot recognizably in St. John's.

And despite being up against *CSI* and *American Idol*, *The Republic of Doyle* boasts a half-million strong Canadian audience.

While law is often client-needs driven, Levine prefers a more partner-like and entrepreneurial approach. "I put my Rolodex to good use," he says.

Levine's other passion is educating Canadians on their own histories and creating an archive of Canadian artistic performances. To this

end, he successfully evolved Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra* from theatre to cinema to television to DVD.

Other archival projects include the *Screen Legends* series of 50 one-minute vignettes and its companion book honouring Canadians who have made an impact in film from the silent screen onwards. The series follows in the spirit of innovative projects such as the *Historica Minutes*, one-minute TV snapshots of Canadian history, and the *Canadian Encyclopedia*, also produced by the newly merged Historical-Dominion Institute.

The opportunities of the digital age, allowing for new ways to reach the next generation, keep Levine energized.

"*Odd Job Jack* is a show that went the other way," says Levine. What began as a web-based cartoon moved to television and is now in its fifth season of production with 71 episodes to date.

This convergent media show is distinctive. The production studio has an initiative known as *FreeJack* whereby master files of every character, prop and background from *Odd Job Jack* are downloadable for free under a share-friendly license. The public is permitted to alter and remix the content as they wish, provided the products are not used for commercial gain.

You might ask: what's next for Levine? Does he have any plans to step in front of the camera? "Not at all," he says. "I have the best job in the world."

After a brief pause, an almost wistful Levine adds, "But if I could be the vampire and Sophia Loren the neck..." For a moment Levine is suspended in time, then returns to business, realizing nothing more need be said. ■■■



Laurie May  
LLB 1993

## Story time

By Tracey Halford Gregoris  
Photography by Jeffery Kirk

“I’m at the Cannes Film Festival sitting at a meeting talking about film. That’s work? Not really,” says Laurie May, LLB 1993. “Now is it all play? No. There are lots of late nights and finger biting.”

The co-president and founder of Maple Pictures Corp. points out there are significant differences between being a counsel and running a distribution company. “You are now a decision-maker, rather than an adviser to the decision-makers. I have 42 people here I am responsible for.”

It’s the storytelling aspect of film that ultimately drives May. And her company has distributed some great stories.

Like *Precious*, an emotional film about illiterate inner-city American kids who fall through the cracks in the social net. The title character, 16, is also a victim of physical and sexual abuse at the hands of her parents.

“Some films pay the bills and some stir up your passions,” says May. “When people see *Precious*, and pay attention to helping these kids, that’s when you see the power of film.”

Similarly, *The Cove*, a film about the annual massacre of dolphins, and an Academy Award-winner for Best Documentary, has already made an impact. “Because of that little film, there was not one dolphin slaughtered this past year,” says May.

May’s love of storytelling runs deep. While working for CTV after university, she received career-altering advice from then-president John Cassaday: get a law degree, he said, so she might “jump up” to the executive level. She took the advice.

Keenly focused on broadcasting and related industries, May

targeted her core courses and networked continuously. Although eager to move to Los Angeles after graduation, she instead worked for Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt in Toronto.

“I rotated through different departments but also worked on deals,” says May. Osler was just building its entertainment practice and she took advantage of working in all areas of that specialization.

Three years to the day of being hired, May left the firm for Los Angeles. On the flight home from job hunting, with several offers in hand, a chance encounter with Jay Switzer, then president and CEO of CHUM Ltd., convinced her to remain in Canada. He told her there were opportunities in Canada.

And he was right. Switzer introduced May to Jeff Sackman of Cinépix Film Properties Inc. and six months after she joined CFP, distribution company Lions Gate Entertainment Corp. acquired the company.

In 2005 May and business partner Brad Pelman formed Maple Pictures to acquire Canadian distribution rights to Lions Gate’s catalogue.

Maple Pictures also has a mandate to purchase Canadian rights from other distributors. It negotiated rights for *The Hurt Locker*, which won six Academy Awards, including Best Film and Best Director.

“I watched the Oscars with *The Hurt Locker* group and it was crazy,” says May. “That film gives you a whole new respect and understanding for what those kids go through, and they are kids. You leave the theatre wanting to get involved.”

And to May, this makes all the difference. ■

Jonathan Anshell  
JD 1993

Once a fan,  
always a fan

By Tracey Halford Gregoris  
Photography by Amanda Friedman



“Most days a comedy, some days a dark comedy,” says Jonathan Anshell, JD 1993, when asked what the reality show based on his job would be. “But I don’t think it would stay on the air long,” he adds with a laugh.

You may disagree. Entertainment and media law, with the infinite legal challenges created by irrepressibly innovative technologies and advancements in content-delivery platforms, is a demanding but exciting career path. But, it’s not for the faint of heart.

“There are days where I feel the character who would play me would be Charlie Brown.”

While articling at Goodmans in the early ’90s, Anshell decided to expand his horizons before settling down to a career in litigation. After being assured by the partnership that his exploration would burn no bridges, Anshell contacted a California firm who had sent a recruiting letter to the Faculty of Law.

Years later, now a partner in a litigation boutique in California whose clients hailed mostly from the entertainment industry, Anshell was courted by CBS Corporation to be its general counsel and executive vice-president, a position he still holds today. Although not originally interested in entertainment and media law, Anshell says he’s found this dynamic area suits him admirably. Entertainment and media law embrace a multitude of issues: labour and employment, copyright, trademark infringement and ongoing transactions. And the challenges are many.

In an era where an entire television episode can be downloaded to a mobile phone, something unthinkable even five years ago,

clairvoyance seems to be an important skill for any entertainment lawyer. Failing prescience, a lawyer in this field knows to be closely aligned with leaders on the business as well as creative side of the business. Anshell says the ongoing technical and creative revolution in production and distribution is what makes this aspect of law so appealing.

Take, for example, the digital placement of products into the actual narrative of the show. Referred to as “aftermarket product placement and integration,” digital innovations in editing allow the placement of endorsement products during post-production, to be used directly in the show’s narrative.


One market may see a character drink a soft drink, another, a cup of tea, somewhere else, an energy drink. Whatever suits the viewing market’s demographic. This opens a whole new can of legal worms not even thought of a few years ago. Legal issues arising from this new technique are by no means limited to the technical, says Anshell, as there may now be creative or moral matters which need to be addressed.

Despite these headaches, there are benefits to this industry.

On occasion, he does get a front row seat at award shows, such as the Emmys or Grammys. And once in a while, he does get to rub elbows with those in front of the camera, but “nobody likes to have to deal with the lawyers,” Anshell laments.

Still, he feels lucky to be in his job. “As much as you’re a lawyer in the industry, you also get to be a fan. You never completely lose the ability to be star struck.” ■





David Fortier  
LLB 1998

From billable hours  
to *Billable Hours*

By Tracey Halford Gregoris  
Photography by Jeffery Kirk

Scene: An international legal office, early 21st century, night. A male entertainment lawyer sits at a desk strewn with dockets and half-empty coffee cups. He is clearly in the throes of existential angst. Colleague Ivan Schneeberg passes by in the hall and stops at his door, peering in.

David Fortier (looking up): “Ivan, I’ve decided I want to become a television producer.”

Ivan Schneeberg: “Me too.”

Spring 2010, day, international office at Temple Street Productions...

After five years as an entertainment lawyer, David Fortier, LLB 1998, decided this career was not for him. But all was not lost. Fortier had garnered much during his tenure at Goodmans in Toronto that he could still put to good use—enough, he hoped, to make an intrepid (and successful) leap into the turbulent world of independent Canadian television production.

Considering Fortier’s entrepreneurial spirit and desire to grow original Canadian content, it’s no surprise he cites well-known lawyer-agent Michael Levine as his mentor. “I practiced entertainment law at Goodmans with Michael. He was my mentor, and the reason I got into entertainment law in the first place.”

Temple Street Productions, a client of Goodmans, was producing *Queer As Folk* but had not developed a replacement show. After pitching their production ideas to then-owner Patrick Whitley, Fortier and Schneeberg joined Temple Street under the auspices of growing the original production and a new division was formed: Temple Street Entertainment.

Fortier felt he had a grasp on how production companies large and

small operated, particularly how things get done on an independent level in Canada.

“We thought we knew, having done the legal side, how things worked—but in actual fact we didn’t really know how anything worked at all,” laughs Fortier, somewhat ruefully.

Despite many challenges, those years were productive. First off in 2004 was the US-Canada co-production *Darcy’s Wild Life*, nominated for a daytime Emmy award. Shortly thereafter, the company developed *Billable Hours*, which aired for three seasons, and its accompanying 10 webisode meta-narrative *Billable Minutes*.

*Billable Hours* sprang from another Goodmans’ export, Adam Till, who articulated there before deciding that script writing was his forte. Together with actor/writer Fabrizio Filippo, Schneeberg, Fortier and Till crafted the show based on their experiences as lawyers.

“A lot of lawyers want to become writers but aren’t willing to admit it,” says Fortier. “Lawyers’ brains are trained a certain way and it helps for reading scripts, analyzing storylines and plot.”

Three years after their leap, the partners bought Temple Street Productions. The company continues to grow its original productions with an impressive repertoire, including the Canadian version of the BBC series *How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?*, *Canada’s Next Top Model*, *Blueprint for Disaster* and the internationally syndicated *Being Erica*.

In mid-2008 BBC Worldwide acquired a 25 percent stake in Temple Street. Together with their new partners, Temple Street plans to explore new format and co-production initiatives.

Dissolve to black. Roll credits. ■■

## Coming up in the Fall/Winter 2010 issue of *Nexus*

### The Decade Dozen

Featuring 12 exceptional alumni who are poised to make an impact this decade, in or outside the practice of law. We'll show you who the winners are and share their stories. But first we need to identify them. Email your nominations for the Decade Dozen to [nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca](mailto:nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca) and in 100 words or less tell us why your fellow alum is one to watch.

### From backpack to briefcase to...backpack?

Have you thought of going back to school for a professional graduate degree in law to advance your career? Email us at [nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca](mailto:nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca). We'd like to hear your comments. We'll explore the issue of "back to school" for lawyers, from alumni young and old and tell you the pros and cons and everything in between.

### Calling all LAWS pioneers

Law in Action Within Schools celebrates its fifth anniversary this fall. And we're looking for alumni who were some of the original volunteers for this mentorship program with at-risk high school students. Do you still keep in touch with the student you mentored? What impact did this experience have on your life—and the lives of the students? We'll give you an update and share your stories. Contact us at [nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca](mailto:nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca).



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## Lives made easier

A law student's volunteer efforts help to redefine health at Canada's first hospital-based legal aid clinic.

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo  
Photography by Claudia Hung

When Kate Bjerring entered law school in 2008, she was thinking of specializing in health law. Never could she have predicted volunteering at the pro-bono Family Legal Health Program at Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto would open her eyes to the broad-based, gritty socio-economic problems affecting the health of entire families.

“When people first arrive at the legal aid clinic in Sick Kids, they’re not very happy. First of all, their child is sick. And secondly, they’re experiencing a legal issue they need assistance with. So it’s a double whammy of stress,” says Bjerring.

Working under the supervision of triage lawyer Lee Ann Chapman, LLB 1998, Bjerring researched areas of unmet legal needs for low-income families struggling with immigration and refugee problems, human rights violations, family issues, tenant-landlord disputes, disability rights and a whole host of other issues outside the realm of hospital services.

Bjerring wrote memos and case summaries, tracked down case resolutions and provided updates to the Law Foundation of Ontario, the funders of the two-year pilot project, which launched in March 2009 as a project of Pro Bono Law Ontario.

She saw how expediting an immigration process for a grandparent to come to Canada to help as a caregiver for a sick child,

or intervening with an employer to allow time off for a parent to support a hospital-bound child, could have a positive effect on the entire family.

But Bjerring was busy working behind the scenes—whether volunteering from the PBLO office, the Bora Laskin library or from her own home—long before the official launch in Canada. The program is the first international application of an idea that started at the Boston Medical Center in the 1990s, and which has now spread to 180 medical sites across the US.

“I began collecting resources from some of the programs in the US that had been around the longest,” says Bjerring, “to see what kind of demographic they were serving and the referrals they were receiving. I researched the logistics of working in a hospital environment, such as types of confidentiality agreements, how to integrate into the hospital community, and how those protocols would need to be adapted in Canada.”

A Donner Fellowship from Pro Bono Students Canada allowed her to work full-time at the clinic last May to July, and play “catch-up” with backlogged administrative tasks, organizing critical data required for analysis, funding reports and an evaluation by U of T’s Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

“Kate’s contributions were unbelievable,” says Wendy Miller, director of PBLO’s child advocacy project. “Her work significantly contributed to the development of the model we have employed at Sick Kids.”

With more than 30 consultations a month—expectations were set at about six or seven, with the triage lawyer available only four days per week—the program is busy. Bjerring continues to volunteer once a month.

“There are so many tragic stories,” she says. “We try to make their lives a little bit easier.”



# Sending the wrong message

By Douglas Sanderson, assistant professor, Faculty of Law

In a provincial cabinet shuffle on Jan. 18, 2010, Brad Duguid was moved from Aboriginal Affairs to Energy and Infrastructure. Queen's Park watchers generally regarded this as a promotion. Chris Bentley was sworn in as Ontario's Aboriginal Affairs minister, in addition to his existing duties as attorney general.

Ontario's Aboriginal people were puzzled as to what this all meant. Some wondered how much time Bentley could devote to Aboriginal Affairs—he already had a very busy portfolio.

Some saw this as a backward step. Ontario had only recently created a stand-alone Aboriginal Affairs ministry with a minister solely devoted to Aboriginal issues. Now, they felt slighted, as if their issues had been pushed to the back burner.

It's a fair question to ask. How effective can any minister be in this portfolio, given that it is shuffled every 18 months or so and now has been reduced to part-time status?

Building a stronger, better future requires a stronger relationship built on mutual respect, dialogue and interaction. But just as the relationships and the issues are coming into focus, a new minister takes the helm and the discussions begin anew.

Consider the facts. Ontario's Aboriginal people continue to suffer in poverty. Their children are six times more likely to commit suicide than non-Aboriginal kids—possibly a rate greater than any other population in the developed world.

Many live in overcrowded homes with no running water. Their children have a greater statistical chance of going to jail than finishing high school. Such statistics are deplorable, but worse, they are not new.

Ontario's First Nations were central players in the history of a province that they once owned. Today, despite treaty promises, despite "Statements of Political Relationships," and despite Commissions of Inquiry, Ontario's Aboriginal people do not have a formal relationship with the provincial Crown.

Aboriginal people have mature, sophisticated and highly democratic political representation in the form of the Chiefs of Ontario, various political-territorial organizations (PTO), sub-groupings of these PTOs called Tribal Councils and local governance via band councils.

Together, however, these political organizations have virtually no jurisdiction over their own affairs, and the collective purpose of most of these organizations is to lobby for its members. To do so, they need to meet with members of the provincial and federal Crown.

Clearly, the issues facing Ontario's Aboriginal people are complex, and they cannot be fixed overnight. But the central issues are not economic or legal. They are political, requiring political interface, political agreement, and most of all, political will.

The latest cabinet shuffle also threatens to undermine one of the McGuinty government's key accomplishments in Aboriginal Affairs: mandating a public inquiry into the events at Ipperwash, including the death of Dudley George. Front and centre in the Ipperwash Report was the recommendation that the former Ontario Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs be made into a separate ministry with a separate

minister and deputy minister. It's an important recommendation. Here's the explanation why.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is a "corporate" ministry. It can do almost nothing without cooperation from other ministers. Unlike the federal Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, which is a kind of super-ministry with its own health, housing and economic development departments, the provincial Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs primarily coordinates the efforts of other ministries as they interact with Aboriginal people.

The provincial minister cannot, therefore, do anything about Aboriginal youth suicides without obtaining the support, the money and the capacity of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Northern Development and possibly the Ministry of Court Services and Community Safety.

Unless all these separate entities choose to "row together," the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has neither the resources, nor the expertise, nor the mandate to make a dent in the youth suicide problem.

Creating a stand-alone ministry means, for the first time since the '90s, Aboriginal Affairs has its own deputy minister who can move and shake among other deputy ministers to gain crucial support for initiatives at the highest levels of the civil service, and who can lobby the premier and cabinet colleagues for desperately required changes.

This is not to say that the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs cannot have other duties. Chris Bentley is an extremely competent minister, but the fact that he is also the attorney general is problematic. It creates a perception of bias, since Aboriginal people are often in legal conflict with the province, and the head of Ontario's crown lawyers is the attorney general. But the truth is, no minister can be in two places at once.

If the McGuinty government must pair the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs with another ministry, the proper choice is Intergovernmental Affairs. A minister responsible for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs actually sends the right message. It says: "We think of you as another order of government, not as 'stakeholders.' We recognize your leaders as legitimate political representatives of Aboriginal people."

The McGuinty government has made some important strides in Aboriginal Affairs, but it now risks undermining those gains by failing to heed the very expensive and very time-consuming advice that it paid to obtain through the creation and funding of a massive public inquiry.

Ontario's Aboriginal people deserve better. They deserve, at a minimum, a premier who listens to the advice that he himself sought. ↩

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*Douglas Sanderson earned his JD in 2003 from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, and his LLM from Columbia University, where he was a Fulbright scholar. His research interests include Aboriginal, constitutional and private law (primarily property law), and public and private legal theory. He is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation and is deeply engaged in Aboriginal issues from a policy perspective.*



Q

A

*with*  
Ted Burnett, JD 1971

**Nexus:** What were your first impressions when you saw the new law-building design by Hariri Pontarini Architects?

**TB:** Current. With-it. Today's architecture.

**Nexus:** What makes a good design?

**TB:** Good design is a design that, number one, fits in with the landscape, which this one does obviously with its curved nature and airiness, and one that, of course, is functional and pleasing to the eye. The aesthetics are very pleasing for this particular building, such as the juxtaposition of the old with the new, which gives it uniqueness.

**Nexus:** So are you intimately involved with many of the designs of your corporation?

**TB:** I am. We build condominiums, usually. We have built shopping centres, but we're currently building condominiums, and the whole creative thing is part of what I like about construction.

**Nexus:** Where do you look for inspiration?

**TB:** I do a lot of reading, and watch the better builders in the USA and get some ideas from them. I travel around and take a look at different cities and what they've done. I take notes and try to use some of those ideas here in Canada.

**Nexus:** What do you think this expansion means for the law school, what does it say?

**TB:** I think it tells me that we're moving from an archaic structure to something that reflects the quality of the law school itself. The academic quality is far superior to the physical plant, and I think this brings the two into conjunction with each other.

**Nexus:** What made you decide to become a lawyer?

**TB:** Good question [laughs]. Originally, I was thinking of going into medicine. We had immigrant parents, and it was important for them to send their children to university to become quote "professionals." My choice was to be a doctor, but my eldest brother became a lawyer and sort of cut the pace. I liked what

he was doing and took more interest in it; he'd bring home all his stories, and got me intrigued about getting into the legal profession.

**Nexus:** What's it like working with your brother at the family business?

**TB:** We get along very well. We really don't step on each other's toes. I do what I like to do, which is building and real estate. He does what he likes to do, which is the old family produce company, which he's expanded into one of the largest in Canada. We have the same "pot" but we each have our separate roles to be creative.

**Nexus:** Are you allowed to talk about business at the family dinner table?

**TB:** Of course! [laughs] We're old-fashioned that way.

**Nexus:** How does your law degree help you run your business?

**TB:** I don't practice day-to-day anymore, but I would say that in fact, I use it every minute of every day: contracts, negotiations, knowing what your rights are and knowing how far you can push the envelope. I believe I stood first in my contracts law class at school.

**Nexus:** What's next for Burnac Corporation?

**TB:** Burnac is involved and will continue to be involved in building boutique condominiums. They're more interesting buildings rather than cookie-cutters that you sell to the masses.

**Nexus:** A little-known fact of Ted Burnett that you could share with us?

**TB:** I've cut out sugar in the last two months and lost 14 pounds. 🍷

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*Alumnus Ted Burnett is president of Burnac Corporation, a wholly-owned Canadian, family business based in Toronto with divisions in commercial and residential real estate, retail and wholesale produce. He has a keen interest in construction design. And his favourite fruit is pomegranate.*



**Web Extra:** Read the Q&A in its entirety at: [www.law.utoronto.ca/Nexus/Burnett.html](http://www.law.utoronto.ca/Nexus/Burnett.html)

## Convocation 2010

Hundreds of family, friends and guests turned out on June 4, 2010 to celebrate our newest alumni. Speakers encouraged the graduates to be creative in their careers and shape their own successes beyond the campus borders. “Seize control of your own narrative,” said Tim Gilbert, LLB 1988, guest speaker. “Your degree is a tool to open doors,” said Carolyn Rock, valedictorian. And remember: “Good lawyering is not fundamentally a business—it’s a profession,” said Justice Stephen Goudge, LLB 1968, convocation speaker. Congratulations class of 2010!

**Photographs:** Diana Balogh-Tyszko







# The Faculty of Law gratefully acknowledges:

## The Tony Chi-Wah Wong Memorial Award

The family, friends and colleagues of Tony Wong, LLB 1985, generously endowed this memorial award for the benefit of the law school's upper-year students. Wong was a former councillor for Markham, Ont., a Liberal MPP for Markham-Unionville and a regional councillor for York region. He was a founding director of the Metropolitan Toronto Southeast Asian Legal Clinic and had his own practice, Wong and Wong, for many years before his foray into politics. He passed away in June of 2009. Online tributes to Wong remembered him "as a dedicated politician who always kept in mind those less fortunate and bridged cultures within this community." His widow, Ellee Wong, felt strongly about ensuring his memory would continue at the law school that he loved. She wanted his name attached to an award that would benefit students who work in the various legal clinics at the law school, where her husband's passion for community work began.

## Noella Milne Bursary

A tireless volunteer in diverse organizations around Ontario, Noelle Milne, LLB 1986, generously endowed a bursary to help law students in financial need. Milne is the winner of a 2010 YWCA Woman of Distinction for Mentorship Award and is dedicated to removing systemic barriers, providing opportunities to women and transforming the male-dominated culture which prevailed when she first started practising law. A senior partner at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, a parent and a deeply engaged citizen, Milne is a role model to many, particularly women students and young lawyers at her law firm, and a leader in every sphere of her involvement.

## Bill Graham Law and Development Lecture Series

This four-year lecture series is made possible by a generous gift from the Hon. William C. Graham, LLB 1964. The gift will allow the law school to invite influential intellectuals and world-renowned leaders in development to engage students and faculty about this issue, discuss the role of Canada in the developing world, and demonstrate how law students can contribute to these endeavours. The series kicks off in fall 2010 with speaker John Githongo, a former Kenyan journalist who investigated bribery and fraud in his home country, and is subject of the book *It's Our Turn to Eat* by Michela Wrong. Githongo took an official government position in Kenya to fight corruption under the presidency of Mwai Kibaki, but left in 2005, after accusing top ministers of large-scale fraud. After claiming he received threats to his life, Githongo moved to the UK to live in exile. The academic community at the University of Toronto is looking forward to hearing about Githongo's reflections on corruption reforms in Kenya and other African nations.

## Michael Trebilcock lands prestigious Premier's Discovery Award

Prof. Michael Trebilcock was one of five winners of the esteemed Premier's Discovery Award, given in May to honour Ontario's most accomplished researchers. Trebilcock was recognized in the social sciences category and receives a \$250,000 award over three years to pursue research projects with graduate students in law and economics, and law and development. An internationally renowned expert in the economic analysis of law and one of the world's leading academics in his field, Trebilcock is the pioneering scholar of law and economics in Canada, and responsible for one of the most influential movements in Canadian scholarship. The Premier's Discovery Awards honour the achievements of five remarkable individuals and showcase Ontario as a global research powerhouse. These awards are part of the prestigious Premier's Innovation Awards program which recognized a total of 10 exceptional people and businesses in 2010.

## Lorne Sossin takes the helm at Osgoode

Prof. Lorne Sossin becomes the new dean of York University's law school, starting July 1, 2010. Sossin served as an associate dean in the Faculty of Law from 2004-2007. Previously, Sossin was a faculty member at Osgoode Hall Law School and an associate-in-law at Columbia Law School. He is also a former litigation lawyer with Borden & Elliot (now Borden Ladner Gervais) and a former law clerk to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Sossin holds doctorates in law from Columbia University and in political science from the University of Toronto. His teaching interests span administrative law, public administration, professional regulation, civil litigation, ethics and professionalism and legal process.

## Jutta Brunnée is next associate dean of the graduate program

Prof. Jutta Brunnée will serve as the law school's next associate dean of the graduate program, starting July 1, 2010. A highly respected academic, dedicated teacher and superb administrator, Brunnée has served twice as acting associate dean of the graduate program, over the past several years, as well as in many other leadership roles at the Faculty of Law. Brunnée takes over from Prof. David Dyzenhaus, who has been an exceptional leader for the graduate program since 2002.

# Students did some marvellous mooting this year

A big thank you to all the students who participated in moot competitions this year, along with their student and faculty coaches:

### Corporate and Securities Moot

Sponsored and hosted by Davies, Ward, Phillips & Vineberg LLP

Faculty Coaches: Mohammad Fadel, Ed Iacobucci

Student Coaches: Emily Fan, Matthew Law, Jeremy Opolsky, Eric Wagner

Team Members: Arden Beddoes, Roy Bornmann, Helen Burnett, Cameron Funnell

### Gale Cup (Criminal Law and Charter Rights)

Osgoode Hall Law Courts competition for Canadian law schools

Faculty Coaches: Martha Shaffer, Karen Bellinger

Student Coaches: Tim Barrett, Joe Heller, Kristen Pollock

Team Members: Cherrine Chow, Patric Senson, Adam Tanel, Sinziana Tugulea

### Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot

Faculty Coaches: Jutta Brunnée, Karen Knop

Student Coaches: Ashley Cochran, Heather Cochran, Amara Gossin, Max Shapiro

Team Members: Natasha Kanerva, Ryan Liss, Brendan Morrison, Chris Yung

3rd Top Oralists: Chris Yung

### Callaghan Memorial Moot (Intramural Criminal Law Competition)

Sponsored by Gowings LLP

Faculty Coaches: Markus Dubber, Hamish Stewart

Student Coaches: Imtenan Abd-El-Razik, Clea Amundsen, Cassandra Florio,

Kara Hardin, Jeff Kang, Steven Slavens, Tina Yang

Team Members: Karim Amlani, Kathryn Beck, Eric Chamney, Joshua Chan,

Aaron Christoff, Elizabeth Coyle, Carlo Di Carlo, Katie Inson, Asim Iqbal,

Aria Kashefi, Jun Chao Meng, Alanna Mihalj, Viktoria Prokhorova, Stuart Rothman,

Samantha Seabrook, Janini Shanmuganathan

1st Place Team: Kathryn Beck, Elizabeth Coyle

2nd Place Team: Karim Amlani, Alanna Mihalj

Top Oralists: Kate Inson, Alanna Mihalj, Stuart Rothman, Samantha Seabrook

Top Appellant Factum: Carlo Di Carlo, Aria Kashefi

Top Respondent Factum: Viktoria Prokhorova, Samantha Seabrook

### Client Counselling Competition

Student Coaches: Sinziana Tugulea, Jocelyn Reikie, Chris Yung

Team Members: Kate Southwell, Jay Potter

2nd Place Team and Top Ontario Team: Kate Southwell, Jay Potter

### Kawaskimhon Moot (Aboriginal Law)

The Kawaskimhon is a consensus event, and does not identify "top" performers

Faculty Coaches: Katherine Hensel, Douglas Sanderson

Team Members: Kim Condon, Maria Golarz, Mark Gustafson, Alexandria Winterburn

### Canadian Labour Arbitration Competition

Sponsored by Mathews, Dinsdale & Clark LLP

Faculty Coaches: Kerry Rittich, Laura Trachuk

Student Coaches: Inie Park

Team Members: Mike Laskey, Lauren Posloski

### Laskin Moot (Administrative and Constitutional Law)

Faculty Coaches: Trudo Lemmens, Audrey Macklin

Student Coaches: Sara Crowder, Aaron Kreaden, Chris Somerville, Laura Wagner

Team Members: Jeremy Martin, Kathryn McGoldrick, Padraic Ryan, Chris Sheridan

4th Top Oralists: Chris Sheridan

### Wilson Moot (Equality Rights and Constitutional Law)

Named for Justice Bertha Wilson

Faculty Coaches: Cheryl Milne, Lorraine Weinrib

Student Coaches: Karen Ensslen, Kristina Gill, Kim Potter

Team Members: Lindsay Beck, David Forsayeth, Becca McConchie, Dan Rohde

1st Place Team: Lindsay Beck, David Forsayeth, Becca McConchie, Dan Rohde

Top Oralists: Dan Rohde

2nd Top Oralists: Lindsay Beck

2nd Top Factum: Lindsay Beck, David Forsayeth, Becca McConchie, Dan Rohde

### Arnup Cup for Trial Advocacy

Faculty Coaches: Julie Hannaford, Jenny Friedland

Team Members: Joe Heller, Mark Rieger

1st Place Team: Joe Heller, Mark Rieger

### Women in Transition: Returning to practice or seeking an alternative career

Changes in the legal profession have opened up a broad range of opportunities for women considering an alternative career in law. For the second consecutive year, the University of Toronto Faculty of Law is offering “Women in Transition: Returning to Legal Practice or Considering an Alternative Career in Law,” a program designed to increase understanding of the new legal marketplace, highlight career options, enhance self-confidence and provide practical tools and tips in preparation of a new and rewarding career in law.

Fall 2010, date TBA

For more information, please visit [www.law.utoronto.ca/ExecutiveEducation](http://www.law.utoronto.ca/ExecutiveEducation), e-mail [executive.education.law@utoronto.ca](mailto:executive.education.law@utoronto.ca) or call 416.978.1566.

### Reunion 2010

A weekend without lawsuits or suits of any kind! Alumni from years ending in ‘0’ or ‘5’ are invited back to the law school to enjoy various activities, including art-collection tours, spa services and a possible round of golf. Don’t miss the opportunity to reconnect with your classmates.

October 22–23, 2010

For more information on reunion and class events, visit [www.alumni.utoronto.ca/lawreunion](http://www.alumni.utoronto.ca/lawreunion). To participate on a class committee, contact Sandra Janzen at 416.946.8227 or [Sandra.janzen@utoronto.ca](mailto:Sandra.janzen@utoronto.ca).

**Nexus is interested in your comments, suggestions and story ideas. Please send an email to our editor at: [nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca](mailto:nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca).**



### In memoriam:

### Morris Singer, JD 1970, 1946 – 2010

*By Alfred Kwinter, JD 1970*

Our profession lost an outstanding and caring advocate on Feb. 21, 2010. After a two-year fight with cancer, Morris Singer finally lost the battle.

Moe was born in Bamberg, Germany, a child of Holocaust survivors. He came to Canada in 1948 and attended Oakwood and William Lyon MacKenzie Collegiates in Toronto.

He graduated from the University of Toronto with a BA in 1967 and from the Faculty of Law in 1970. He was called to the Ontario bar in 1972 and shortly thereafter, he and I founded the firm Singer, Kwinter.

Moe practiced mainly in the area of family law. Anyone practicing in this field knows that clients as well as opposing counsel can be particularly challenging. Nevertheless, in more than 35 years of practice, Moe never lost the kind, gentlemanly manner and that smile which became his trademark.

Moe was always available to assist anyone who called upon his skills—clients, fellow lawyers or law students. He served as a supervisor at the Community and Legal Aid Services program at Osgoode Hall Law School, and for many years was a duty counsel at the Problem Central Legal Clinic.

Moe was the consummate advocate. In two cases where he represented fathers who were simply trying to obtain access to their children, the final judgments gave custody to the fathers.

Following Moe’s death, numerous judges from all court levels sent condolences. Almost every comment mentioned what a pleasure it had been to have Morris Singer in the courtroom.

Always prepared, always courteous, always a gentleman.

Moe’s passing is a great loss to all of us. We will miss him. 🐘

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Alfred Kwinter was a law school classmate and former law partner of Morris Singer.

## 1964

**Morris Manning, JD**, writes: “The text *Criminal Law*, which I wrote with Alan Mewett, is now published in its fourth edition as *Manning, Mewett and Sankoff* by Lexis Nexis.”

## 1967

**Richard B. Jones, LLB**, writes: “I have just retired from Aylesworth LLP where I was counsel and head of the insolvency and restructuring practice group. This move will allow me to act as independent advisory counsel to other lawyers and insolvency professionals doing second opinion and tactical review advisory work on restructurings. I have also established a small strategic financial advisory firm, Pendragon Advisors Inc., and will be doing more teaching as an adjunct professor at Queen’s University Faculty of Law. I am also the legal adviser to the National Insolvency Examination. As one of the Canadian members of the Insolvency and Creditor Rights Task Force established by the World Bank, I have contributed to its working group on insolvent non-bank financial institutions. This has been an opportunity to work further with more distinguished graduates of U of T Law, such as Janis Sarra and Jim Farley.”

## 1974

**Barry Leon, LLB**, has joined Ottawa-based law firm Perley-Robertson, Hill and McDougall LLP/s.r.l as a partner in the international arbitration group. After his admission to the Ontario Bar in 1976, he practised with Torys LLP in Toronto until mid-2009. He has more than 30 years of experience as counsel in complex and significant disputes involving many different industries. Along the way, he’s landed numerous professional recognitions from organizations such as the International Who’s Who of Commercial Arbitration 2009, Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory, the Guide to the World’s Leading Experts in Commercial Arbitration, the Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada and the Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-Border Litigation Lawyers in Canada. He can be reached at: bleon@perlaw.

**John Gregory, LLB**, and contributed book chapters which were recently published in the *Annual Review of Civil Litigation 2009* (“The Law Goes Electronic”), *L’état de droit et virtualité* (“Défis juridiques du gouvernement virtuel”), and *The United Nations Electronic Communications Convention* (two chapters addressing articles of the Convention).

## 1975

**Tom Kuttner, LLB and LLM 1981**, writes: “After 31 years teaching labour and administrative law at the University of New Brunswick Faculty of Law in Fredericton, I am retiring in July and returning to Ontario. I will be joining colleagues at the University of Windsor law school, where I will be the Ron Ianni Scholar for the 2010-2011 academic year. I look forward to carrying on my labour arbitration practice in Canada’s manufacturing heartland.”

**Marguerite Moore, JD**, is a professor and past program co-ordinator of the law clerk program in the information technology division at Fanshawe Community College in London, Ont. She teaches real property and real estate law, conveyancing, title searching, legal research and legal technology. She has been a speaker and instructor on title searching and land registration records for the Office of the Director of Land Registration, the Ontario Association of Archivists, the University of Western Ontario, historical and archival associations, and the Ontario Police College. She is presently renewing her love of real property law in her final year of the part-time LLM in real property law at Osgoode Hall Law School. Her book *Title Searching and Conveyancing in Ontario* has gone into its sixth edition.

## 1982

**John Edmond, LLB**, joined the Ottawa office of Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP on March 15 as counsel. He practised with the Department of Justice and later the Attorney General of B.C., and most recently was commission counsel to the Indian Claims Commission. He will advise nationally, mainly on Aboriginal law aspects of natural resource matters.

## 1983

**Michael Alexander, JD**, is about to launch a new entrepreneurial venture, btionetworks.com (website under construction). The company will bring together his legal work, which focuses on regulatory matters, judicial review and Charter litigation, and “all the other stuff I do,” including work as a writer, professional public speaker, media commentator and television producer. Under the umbrella of btio, Michael will continue to work with NBBA Enterprises (venture capital), where he acts as in-house counsel and adviser on project development, and with International Creative Management (NYC), where he is being represented on his third book *How to Beat a Bully*. The book is based on his six-year litigation battle against State Farm U.S., which went to the Supreme Court of Canada, where he obtained a unanimous judgment as a self-represented litigant.

## 1984

**Alasdair Roberts, JD**, has a new book out, *The Logic of Discipline: Global Capitalism and the New Architecture of Government* (OUP). You can find out more about it here: [www.aroberts.us/New\\_book\\_Logic\\_of\\_discipline.html](http://www.aroberts.us/New_book_Logic_of_discipline.html)

## 1990

**Ed Canning, LLB**, is practicing employment law in Hamilton with Ross and McBride LLP. He writes a bi-weekly column in the *Hamilton Spectator* on the subject.

**Anita Szigeti, LLB**, writes: “The major event in our lives this past year has been that my daughter Scarlett was the face of the CNE for the summer of 2009, seen on buses and streetcars everywhere. Apart from that, our firm Hiltz Szigeti is thriving. I continue to advocate for clients with serious mental health issues and have had the privilege to appear on a number of occasions now in the Supreme Court, which I have enjoyed. I also cannot believe this year marks 20 years since I graduated from the school.” She can be reached at: [aszigeti@hslaw.ca](mailto:aszigeti@hslaw.ca).



**Left top row:** Anita Szigeti with daughter Scarlett, her parents Robert and Ann, son Sebastian and husband Roy LaPorte.

## 1992

**Paul Paton, LLB**, served as chair of the Canadian Bar Association’s National Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee in 2009-2010. He was recently promoted to full professor and was granted tenure at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California. Previously, he was at the Faculty of Law at Queen’s University. He heads a multi-year grant, “Ethics Across the Professions,” at McGeorge, and recently hosted an international conference on judicial ethics and accountability.

## 1996

**Anita Chakrabarti, LLB**, is a psychiatrist in the Northwest Ontario Concurrent Disorders Program in Thunder Bay and is working with patients with severe mental illness and addictions.

## 1997

**Ellen Sithole, SJD**, was recently appointed deputy chairperson of the inaugural Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission. She would like to hear from alumni with similar interests, [emakasitho@yahoo.com](mailto:emakasitho@yahoo.com).

## 2004

**Anum Saleem, LLM**, was practicing corporate and commercial law before joining Escorts Investment Bank in Lahore, Pakistan as the head of legal and corporate affairs/company secretary. He’s a visiting faculty member at one of Pakistan’s premier business universities, LUMS, and teaches business law and deal-making. He has authored a study on the trade policy consultation mechanism published by the International Trade Centre in Geneva and has independently advised the ITC on trade organization issues. He has also contributed to various national English dailies and law journals and has more than 130 publications to his name. He can be contacted at: [anum.saleem@lums.edu.pk](mailto:anum.saleem@lums.edu.pk)

## 2006

**Ryan Lavallee, JD**, writes: “I am spending weekdays working in exotic interest rate derivatives at the European headquarters of Goldman Sachs in London, United Kingdom. And on weekends, I visit the continent, wander around the English countryside, or continue my seemingly endless home renovation.”

**Jennifer L. Schulz, SJD**, was appointed associate dean (research and graduate studies) at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law, on Jan. 1, 2010.

## 2008

**Austin Acton, JD**, writes: “I started my own firm at Nipissing First Nation and my practice focuses on Aboriginal, corporate and family law. Approximately half of my clients are First Nation or Métis. Nipissing First Nation had a surprisingly dense amount of lawyers for an Indian Reserve (I know of at least seven lawyers practising here) and it is a great community. However, breaking into the North Bay legal community is a little more awkward, since I am not from here, I am Aboriginal, I do not work for a big firm, etc. Surprisingly for me, working with Legal Aid Ontario has been a wonderful networking opportunity and I have made many new friends and career contacts.”

**What have you been up to? Update your classmates on your personal and professional achievements. Please send a short email to: [nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca](mailto:nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca). Include your degree and graduation year, and let us know if we can publish your email address.**

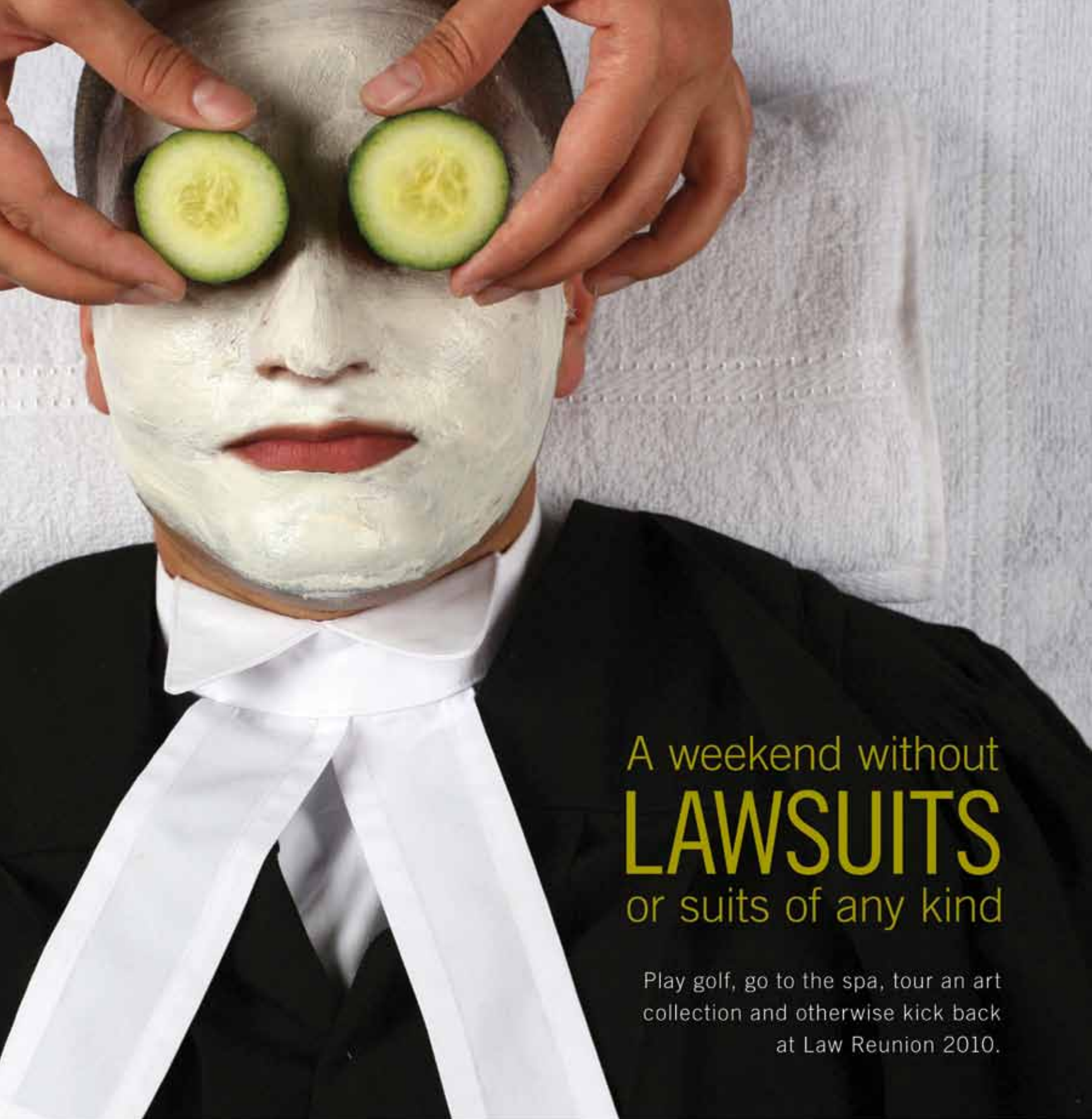


“Sit down, stand up, tilt this way please.”

These are the photos that didn’t make it in this issue, for a variety of design reasons. But that doesn’t mean we didn’t like them. Photographs—and illustrations—bring *Nexus* pages to life and are an integral part of the storytelling.

In subsequent issues, this page will be turned over to our creative partners—those behind the lens, who will take a moment to explain the process, thinking and execution that went into a *Nexus* photo shoot. It will tell you the story behind the story. And it’s part of our final submissions.





A weekend without  
**LAWSUITS**  
or suits of any kind

Play golf, go to the spa, tour an art collection and otherwise kick back at Law Reunion 2010.

If you graduated in a year ending in 0 or 5, RSVP today for Law Reunion and get more details at: [alumni.utoronto.ca/lawreunion](http://alumni.utoronto.ca/lawreunion), [sandra.janzen@utoronto.ca](mailto:sandra.janzen@utoronto.ca) or 416-946-8227.

Have fun. It's the Law.



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